

**Peace before gas to Israel — Qatar**

DUBAI (R) — Israel is seeking to import natural gas from Qatar but Doha said progress in Middle East peace talks must precede any deal. Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Bin Jaber Al Thani told reporters in Washington "there is an Israeli proposal concerning this issue but they know our conditions for this," the official Qatari News Agency reported on Friday. "We have made it clear to Israel that there will be no progress in our ties before there is big progress in the peace process and specially in the Syrian and Lebanon tracks," added the minister, who has met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Sheikh Hamad, who is on a visit to the United States, is the only Gulf Arab minister known to hold talks with Israel. On Wednesday he said there could be moves taken soon to end the Arab boycott against Israel. Israeli media have said the gas deal is estimated at \$1 billion and would involve shipping gas to Israel from Qatar, which controls one of the world's largest gas fields, as well as through Israel to Europe. A spokeswoman at the Israel energy ministry said on Thursday a number of other Gulf states had offered to supply gas to the Jewish state.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily  
جورنال تايمز يومية مستقلة عربية

**Jordan seeks retrial of its nationals in Kuwait**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Ministry is exerting intensified efforts with several Arab, Islamic and foreign countries as well as the Arab League and the U.N. urging them to mediate with the Kuwaiti authorities to review sentences issued against Jordanian nationals. Recently, the Foreign Ministry called the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council seeking their countries' mediation in the issue and calling for retrials of the Jordanians, most of them accused of "collaborating" with Iraq during its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry has also called several ambassadors of Arab states in Amman for the same purpose. It has also contacted Jordanian diplomatic missions in Arab and Islamic states and at international organisations to continue their efforts in this regard.

**Sudan blames rebels for talks collapse**

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's government Friday blamed its main rebel opponents for the breakdown of talks to guarantee relief convoys in the famine-threatened south. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had shown an "inhuman" attitude in turning down the government offer to guarantee "safe corridors" for supplies to around two million people in the war-torn south, a member of the government's peace mission said in Sudan daily Al Sudani Al Hadith. The government was still negotiating a date for peace talks to start with John Garang's SPLA despite the collapse of the Nairobi relief talks, said Mussa Sidabrim. The government declaration follows rebels claims Thursday that the government, despite international appeals for peace, had launched a dry season offensive in the south to cut rebel supply lines.

**Drugs, alcohol blamed for Gulf accidents**

ABU DHABI (AFP) — More than 4,000 people died in car accidents in Gulf Arab states in 1990 and they were mostly caused by drugs and alcohol, a report by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said. Around 99,300 accidents took place in the six-country GCC in 1990, killing 4,092 people and seriously injuring 4,671, said the report from the organisation's Riyadh-based secretariat printed by the UAE daily Al Bayan. "Around 80 per cent of the accidents were caused by males aged between 11 and 30 years and most of them were due to speed, drugs and drunk driving," the report said. A breakdown showed Saudi Arabia was worst with 3,186 deaths, while 406 people were killed in Oman, 395 in the UAE and the rest in Qatar and Bahrain. The report did not include Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraqi forces during the second half of 1990.

**Mubarak: No dialogue with Islamists**

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has ruled out dialogue with Muslim fundamentalist groups, saying election successes by Islamic groups in Algeria and Jordan would not be allowed to occur in Egypt. "There will be no dialogue with illegal groups. The constitution in Egypt bans the establishment of religious parties," Mr. Mubarak said in a speech published in Egyptian newspapers Friday. "The experience of Jordan and Algeria will not be repeated in Egypt ... no one can impose a vision on the Egyptians under the banner of religion," he warned. Egypt has been under emergency law since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and human rights groups say the police have tortured detainees and violated human rights in the fight against political violence. More than 280 people have been killed and 670 injured since militants began a violent campaign to oust the Egyptian government and install a purist Islamic state. The casualties were policemen, foreign tourists or members of Islamic groups.

## Majali asks Sanctions Committee for fair treatment for Jordan

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali assured a U.N. committee Thursday his country was causing serious problems for its economy.

Jordan has complained in the past that the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait was slow or inconsistent in dealing with applications to export humanitarian goods to Baghdad.

"In fact we want the Security Council to look into compensating Jordan on the damage which has been taken to our economy by applying strictly the sanctions," he said.

Mr. Majali, who accompanied King Hussein on a visit to Washington earlier this week, came to the United Nations with Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani.

It is rare for a senior government minister to address the committee, whose meetings are usually attended by ambassadors or lower-ranking diplomats.

The prime minister said the sanctions affected Jordanian factories producing humanitarian goods such as household appliances and cloth, since most were based on serving the Iraqi market.

Jordan also experienced dif-



U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali greets Thursday. At right is Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N. Adnan Abu Odeh (AFP)

iculties because many of its own imports faced inspection on the high seas, incurring higher insurance rates and car-

go fees.

Asked about the oil which Jordan obtains from Iraq with Security Council consent, he said his country had to export some "humanitarian goods in payment for what we get in oil."

Asked whether the committee questioned Jordan's oil relationship with Iraq, he replied: "No."

Despite the trade sanctions, Amman has been allowed to import Iraqi oil under a deal which originally paid down Baghdad's debts to Jordan incurred during the 1980-1988

Iran-Iraq war.

Dr. Majali said the committee chairman promised to distribute to members the text of his speech and pledged to "look into it in a very serious way."

In a letter to the committee last month, Jordan's U.N. representative Adnan Abu Odeh complained that applications for permission to export goods to Iraq were not dealt with in a consistent manner.

He said: "Shipment of certain materials could be exported to Iraq if approved, that approval should be the basis for approving to export similar materials without going into the current detailed time-consuming procedure."

## Body of late air force chief is expected home

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of the late Major General Avni Bilal Qasem, chief of staff of the Royal Jordanian Airforce, who died in Washington Thursday would be flown to Amman in the next two days, close relatives said Friday.

His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a message to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai condoling him over the sudden death of Maj. Gen. Qasem.

King Hussein expressed his heart-felt condolences over the death of Maj. Gen. Qasem and requested Gen. Mirai to convey his condolences to the Armed Forces and to the Qasem family.

The late major general, who assumed his post in 1993, has been among the delegation to the Joint U.S.-Jordanian Military Commission holding talks in Washington over the past week.

## Zeroual sole candidate for Algerian presidency

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian Defence Minister Lamine Zeroual will be named the country's sole presidential candidate by Sunday "at the latest," the head of the country's conference on national conciliation said Friday.

It was still not known whether the 53-year-old retired general, would accept the post, said Yousef Al Khatib in an interview here with Radio France International.

The presidential nomination should take effect "as soon as possible, Saturday or Sunday at the latest," Mr. Khatib added.

Gen. Zeroual's candidacy was not put forward by the ruling military government but by civilian groups which took part in Wednesday and Thursday's national conference, Mr. Khatib said.

Gen. Zeroual's nomination



Avni Bilal Qasem

for air force and air defence corps.

In April 1993, he was appointed chief of staff for Royal Jordanian Air Force. He was promoted to major general on Dec. 5, 1993. He was awarded several medals, including Jordan's Independence, Kawakab, and Nahda medals.

He held a masters degree in military sciences.

follows the refusal Wednesday of former Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika to accept the presidency and a boycott of the national conference by most of Algeria's political parties and of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The national conference was called by the government to trace the path for a three year transition from military to civilian rule.

Mr. Khatib said the new president would be sworn in within a week after his appointment. "The new president will have one or two assistants, and not one or two vice-presidents, to avoid a struggle for power," he said.

Algerian political circles reacted with surprise Friday to Mr. Khatib's declaration saying that the conference had

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## King, Queen on Austria visit

## Combined agency despatches

THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor Friday began a several-day visit to Austria during which the King will meet senior Austrian officials.

Their Majesties were seen off from Washington by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, Finance Minister Sami Gammon, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Al Tarawneh and several officials from the State Department.

The King and Queen had paid a several-day visit to Washington, where the King met with President Bill Clinton, senior officials and American leaders.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin welcomed the announcement from King

Hussein that the Monarch had no objections to meeting him, a spokesman said Thursday.

King Hussein said in Washington Wednesday that he had no hang-ups about meeting with Mr. Rabin.

"The prime minister would welcome a meeting with King Hussein," said spokesman Gad Ben-Ari. "Certainly such a statement by King Hussein is encouraging."

Mr. Ben Ari said no preparations were underway for such a meeting.

"He is a very serious man, very experienced, enlightened, who knows the material and bimbi," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said of King Hussein.

Health Minister Haim Ramon said the peace process exceeded such public encounters.

"Definitely in light of the relations and progress in the

peace talks, the time has come to meet openly," Mr. Ramon said.

"An open meeting, beyond the actual results, has a great psychological effect, warms hearts to peace, and creates on both sides more trust in the peace talks and the ability to live in peace," he said.

Israel and Jordan signed an agreement for a peace agreement on Sept. 14.

Even bardine legislator Ariel Sharon from the opposition Likud Party welcomed a meeting with King Hussein, saying that he hoped such a meeting would divert Israel from the autonomy plan with the Palestinians.

Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped King Hussein would agree to meet with him as the leader of a "substantial portion of the Israeli public."

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## Arafat, Peres meet in Davos today to advance self-rule deal

## Combined agency despatches

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meet today in Davos, Switzerland, in an effort to settle differences in the implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on interim Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Peres headed for the talks warning that much work remained to be done before Palestinian self-rule could start.

The Peres-Arafat encounter at the World Economic Forum in Davos has been built up as make-or-break for the autonomy talks. But Israeli officials were anxious Friday to play down expectations of a quick deal.

"Although I am generally an optimist I cannot promise that an accord will be reached in Davos," Mr. Peres said. "We still have a lot of work to do, and a lot to consider."

He and Mr. Arafat are due to examine a list of 12 points of disagreement over launching autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, which was drawn up in Cairo this week.

The PLO's chief negotiator at the Cairo talks, Nabil Shaath, told AFP that "some progress was certainly made during 36 hours of negotiations, but it was insufficient."

Mr. Peres will meet Mr. Shaath on Saturday and Sunday and could extend his stay if the talks are productive, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

"We will not accept any delay."

Israeli troops were to have begun withdrawing on Dec. 13 but the two sides have been wrangling over who should control border crossings and the size of the future autonomous Jericho area in the West Bank.

The PLO representative in Cairo, Sami Kamal, said that if Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres ironed out the differences in Davos, negotiators would meet in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Tabar to prepare the text of an agreement.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would then sign it, he added.

Uri Savir, foreign ministry director general who headed the Israeli delegation in Cairo, said that "we reached agreement on some dossiers and progress was made."

A senior foreign ministry official added: "The negotiations are making headway and that is the essential thing. Even if an agreement is not reached in Davos there should be substantial progress, and an agreement will be reached after a second or third meeting."

He recalled that the secret negotiations in Oslo last year, which resulted in the declaration of principles signed in September, had survived "very serious crises."

Mr. Peres will meet Mr. Shaath on Saturday and Sunday and could extend his stay if the talks are productive, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

In an Israel Radio interview, Mr. Sarid said the main sticking point was Israel's insistence on reserving the option of checking "anyone or anything" crossing into the planned self-rule enclaves in Gaza and Jericho.

"Israel cannot give up this option. We are talking about a pure issue of security and there is no country in the world that would relinquish this option," he said.

The border question has been the toughest obstacle, since it pits Israel's security demands against the Palestinians' insistence that an Israeli presence at crossings would violate the autonomy promised to the Israel-PLO accord.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported, without quoting sources, that the negotiators in 12 hours of talks Thursday bad defined how the broader posts would work.

## Donors agree to fund most of Palestinian start-up costs

PARIS (Agencies) — International aid donors have agreed to fund most, but not all, of the start-up costs of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the World Bank said Friday.

At a special meeting on aid to the occupied territories, donors endorsed a proposed Palestinian budget for 1994, pledging \$120 million towards covering a budget deficit of \$58 million, World Bank Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser said in a statement.

"It doesn't look as if we have been able to get all that we needed to achieve a balanced budget... but I am quite satisfied," Palestinian delegation head Nabil Kassis said.

Much of the money was earmarked for the Palestinian police force that will take charge of local security once Israeli troops withdraw under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement still to be implemented.

Funds will also go towards central administration, the rehabilitation of prisoners released by Israel and job creation.

Western donors normally insist that aid go to specific projects rather than recurrent government expenditure.

Altogether donors have pledged \$570 million in aid for 1994, most of it for basic infrastructure projects such as roads, water, sewage, electricity, hospital and school building.

An international conference on financial support for Middle East peace in Washington last October raised promises of \$2.4 billion over five years.

The donors — including the European Union, the United States, Japan and some Arab countries — also agreed to the broad outlines of expenditures and receipts contained in the first Palestinian budget, developed by the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank announced.

To help some donors bypass their own rules which stipulate that aid may only be donated

supposed to cover the entire budget deficit.

The donors' meeting was held Thursday and Friday at the World Bank's European headquarters in Paris.

Mr. Kassis, a board member of the Palestinian economic council, said the Palestinians would be ready to implement economic self-rule as soon as the PLO and Israel achieved a breakthrough on political and security aspects of interim self-government.

The European Union pledged the largest single contribution to first year running costs with \$36 million. Japan pledged \$17.1 million and the United States \$16 million, of which \$6 million was earmarked for security expenditure, officials said.

World Bank officials said further pledges may yet be made to narrow the shortfall, which could also be bridged by transferring some running costs to project budgets.

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## Rabin emphatic on Golan referendum

PARIS (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Friday he would definitely go ahead with a referendum on a peace accord with Syria involving withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"Without any doubt," Mr. Rabin told the French daily *Liberation* when asked whether he had taken a final decision on his recent proposal to hold such a referendum, which has drawn criticism from within his own cabinet.

"The question of peace or no peace with Syria is a crucial one just like the issue of a major withdrawal from the Golan."

The Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, are at the core of Middle East peace negotiations.

Syrian troops came within a whisker of retaking the bleak plateau in 1973. Israel has always feared a surprise attack on its positions overlooking the road to Damascus.

U.N. soldiers stand between the rival forces in the area, barely an hour's drive from Syria's capital.

Dominated from the north by Jabal Al Sheikh the rocky plateau ends abruptly to the west in a sheer cliff overlooking the upper Jordan River.

"There can be no misunderstanding or arguing (later) on this and it is best to let the Israeli people decide. All stable democracies organise referendum on major subjects so why should Israel not organise one on a subject vital for its security and prosperity," he said.

Mr. Rabin said that before proceeding, Israel needed "clear signs as to what peace means for Syria, what the territorial price to pay will be, security arrangements, the calendar for Israeli withdrawal, where there are no territorial

Syria is demanding a prior Israeli commitment to withdraw fully from Golan while Israel refuses to discuss withdrawal until it receives a Syrian pledge to conclude full and normal relations after a peace agreement.

Mr. Rabin said there was no need for the referendum to concern fronts other than Syria because "peace with Syria and the loss of most of the Golan are much more important than peace with Lebanon or Jordan where there are no territorial

issues... As for Palestinian autonomy, I believe I already have a mandate from the electorate," he said.

Mr. Rabin said his main difference with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was that he "considers, and from his point of view it is entirely understandable, that the first phase of the Gaza-Jericho accord is a first step towards an independent Palestinian state."

Mr. Rabin said the accord stipulated talks on the final status of the occupied areas would only start at a later date.

A mock referendum run by an Israeli daily showed over 70 per cent of Israelis oppose a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, even in exchange for peace with Syria.

Marriv said 52,000 Israelis took part in its referendum last Friday, when ballot boxes were placed at newsstands throughout the country.

Respondents slipped in ballots answering Marriv's question, "are you for or against a full peace treaty with Syria in return for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights?"

Out of those polled, 71.84 per cent said they were against and 14,689 said they were against.

Marriv acknowledged that the referendum was not a precise reflection of Israeli public opinion, as it reflected only its supporters. Arab Israelis, for instance, are not readers of the paper.

Polls have shown that over 60 per cent of Israelis oppose total withdrawal for total peace. But similar numbers are for some sort of withdrawal for peace.

Maariv acknowledged that the referendum was not a precise reflection of Israeli public opinion, as it reflected only its supporters. Arab Israelis, for instance, are not readers of the paper.

Maariv's question was: "Is this Our Land?" to surreptitiously set up a settlements in the abandoned Arab house near the West Bank town of Hebron on Wednesday night ended when troops arrested 40 settlers in that action, dragging some hand and foot.

The army dispersed several dozen settlers from an encampment near settlement of Bat Ayin in the Etzion bloc south of Jerusalem peacefully, Israel Radio reported.

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The army dispersed several dozen settlers from an encampment near settlement

# Home News

## Two hanged for murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two convicted criminals, Sufan Shtewi and Ali Qaftan, were hanged at Swaqqa Prison.

The criminal court had condemned the two men to death for the murder of a fellow Egyptian worker in April 1992 in Irbid governorate.

The two prisoners, aged 26 and 28, were said to have been working as construction labourers in Makhraba police found fingerprints matching those found on the murder victim's body and this led to the arrest of Shtewi and Qaftan, said the report.

It said that soon after discovery of the body, police started wide scale investigations to find the murderers.

In investigating a robbery later at a school in Makhraba police found fingerprints matching those found on the murder victim's body and this led to the arrest of Shtewi and Qaftan, said the report.

It said that the two men admitted to killing their colleague and reenacted the crime at the scene in the presence of the prosecutor-general and local police officers.

The two hangings, carried out during the earlier hours Thursday, are the first executions in Jordan in 1994.

## S. Africa welcomes opening of Jordanian embassy

JOHANNESBURG (Petra) — South African President F.W. de Klerk has welcomed Jordan's decision to open an embassy in South Africa and pledged to facilitate establishment of strong ties between the two countries.

Mr. de Klerk was speaking at a meeting here Thursday with a Jordanian delegation led by Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi who conveyed to the South African leader a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inviting him to visit Jordan.

Mr. Lawzi, who is leading a 13-member delegation including Minister of Planning of Ziad Fariz and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal

Al Hassan, presented Jordan's views about the Middle East situation and outlined prospects for Jordanian-South African economic cooperation.

Members of the delegation, who include business men and representatives of Jordanian universities, discussed trade and cultural relations at separate meetings with South African officials, including prospects for teaching Islamic studies to South African students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Al Bayt University.

Dr. Fariz met with the head, and members of the South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss trade prospects.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Upper House to discuss report on budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting (today) Saturday under the chairmanship of Acting Speaker Zeid Rifai and in the presence of the Cabinet members. The House will discuss a report prepared by its Financial Committee on the general budget draft law which was approved by the Lower House recently.

### Spain donates \$184,000 to rural programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour received a cheque in the amount of \$184,000 as donation from the Spanish government to the Rural Families Income Support Programme. The cheque was handed to Dr. Sqour Thursday by Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Juan Manuel Cabrera. Dr. Sqour said the Rural Families Income Support Programme aims to improve the economic, social and health conditions of rural families and prevent migration from rural to urban areas. He said the areas which will benefit from the project are Zizia, Arida, Birein, North Shoubra, Rujm Al Siba Al Shabani, Hosh, Hmaimah, Abu Mahtoub, Mazar, Gharib Hadithah, Juff Al Darawish and Gharandal.

### JNRCS holds annual meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central General Assembly of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) held its annual meeting under the chairmanship of JNRCS President Mohammad Mitraq Al Hadid. Dr. Hadid reviewed at the meeting held Thursday the most prominent achievements of the society in 1993. He said the society has expanded its hospital, increasing its capacity to 150 beds. He also reviewed JNRCS's role in extending assistance to other societies, saying this enabled the society's president to win the post of vice president of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in an election held in Birmingham, Great Britain last November. Participants in the meeting discussed the society's 1993 financial statement and its 1994 budget. They also discussed a report submitted by the secretary general of the JNRCS recommending amendments to the society's bylaws. The general assembly decided to hold another meeting at a date yet to be decided.

### Islamic relief agency urges Arab solidarity

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the International Islamic Relief Organisation's office in Amman Mu'ayad Al Battiri Friday underlined the importance of enhancing social solidarity among Arab and Islamic peoples as a means to confront dangers threatening their nations. Sheikh Battiri told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanian-Saudi relations are distinguished for their mutual respect and brotherly ties, adding that as a reflection of these relations the Jeddah-based organisation has one of its major offices in Amman which constitutes a link between the organisation's offices in the world.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ghazwa Shukri at the New English School Art Gallery 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hammoud at Beladina Art Gallery (Wasti Al Tal Street).
- ★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Makram Khaghandaqah at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Omar Al Basoul at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition on the art of architecture at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

### DRAMAS

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.).

## IATA, Jordan discuss air transport issues Prospects of Palestinian airline reviewed with PLO

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) discussed enhancing cooperation with a view to building and consolidating relations between countries and expanding prospects for tourism during a visit last week by IATA Director Pierre Jeanniot, senior officials said Friday.

Mr. Jeanniot, who ended a two-day visit to Amman

has suffered all over the world in the past years as a result of instability and strife."

Dr. Abu Nowar noted that aviation was a topic of "very special interest to His Majesty King Hussein," who pilots his own plane, and the talks with Mr. Jeanniot came within the context of the King's "continued dialogue with many others in the world" about cooperation in aviation affairs.

The deputy prime minister said the issue of an Israeli offer to open its airspace for Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, was not discussed at all.

Jordan has denied an Israeli report that it had sought permission for overflights through Israeli airspace. Officials have said that the issue of overflights in general was discussed during the peace negotiations, but Jordan had not specifically requested anything from Israel.

"Israel is ready to allow Jordan to use its sea and air-

ports," said a statement issued Monday by Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar's office after the Israeli minister's talks with Mr. Jeanniot. "Israel has told Jordan it will be allowed to fly over Israel to European points on the basis of mutuality between the two countries."

Israel is anxious to have access to Jordanians as well as Gulf airspace to facilitate El Al's (the Israeli national carrier) new flights to Bangkok ahead of operating flights to other Far Eastern countries, including Japan.

Dr. Abu Nowar as well as other officials said that aviation links were part of the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process and could be followed up only after a basic agreement has been reached on the political aspects of the conflict.

Mr. Jeanniot, who met with RJ Chief Executive Officer and President Mahmoud Balqez and other RJ officials, told them that they were ready

to open Israeli skies for RJ. and Mr. Balqez reiterated the Jordanian stand, officials said.

During Wednesday's talks,

RJ proposed that IATA move

its Middle East Technical Centre to Amman and also called for enhanced ties between the carrier and the organisation in terms of training and related areas.

Mr. Jeanniot promised to study the proposal.

Mr. Jeanniot voiced "high appreciation for RJ's contributions to IATA," said an official, noting that the Canadian official had presented RJ with a special certificate of appreciation.

As head of IATA, he said, his concern was to help airlines facilitate their operations. In the case of the Middle East, he said, international airlines could also benefit from the opening of airspaces.

"We need as many airlines as possible in view of the increase in air traffic," he said, but added that IATA was not acting as a go-between or mediator in the Middle East.

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with a special certifi-

cate of appreciation.

At the same time, airline

sources said, it also appeared

that any such Israeli permis-

sion would be with a clear eye

on linking a Palestinian airline

with El Al and El Al's traffic

rights since the PLO could not

enter any agreement as an in-

dependent entity.

"That would be another

stone in Israel's effort to bind

the Palestinians to itself as

much as possible," said an

airline industry official.

## Police continue probe into downtown cinema blast IAF condemns incident, blames 'Zionists, enemy groups'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Security authorities kept a tight lid Friday over their investigations into Wednesday's blast at a downtown cinema screening semi-pornographic movies. But informed sources said it was established that a bomb was behind the explosion that injured seven people and caused severe damages.

No arrest of suspects was confirmed, but the sources said several people were questioned. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc meanwhile condemned the incident and blamed "Zionists" and

enemy groups" for it. The IAF suggested the Israeli Mossad could have been behind the blast and said violence was not the means to prevent anyone from actions incompatible with Islamic teachings.

One of the injured, reported earlier in serious condition, was pronounced out of danger Thursday evening.

The six other sustained injuries but not life-threatening, medical sources said. Some of the injured were admitted to Al Bashir Hospital while others were taken to the Italian Hospital.

Two of the injured were Egyptian, three were Jordanian, three were Egyp-

tian and one was Sudanese. Another was unidentified.

Police spokesman would only say that investigations were continuing and declined to confirm or deny whether any of the people questioned was a suspect in the case, the first of its kind reported in Jordan.

An informed source said "it is almost certain that a bomb had caused the explosion," but declined to reveal any details of the nature of the device, which wrecked the projection room and damaged the ceiling and chairs in the auditorium.

The explosion came in the middle of a regular matinee show of a Turkish movie de-

scribed as semi-pornographic. Jordanian censorship laws ban such films. But there are a few theatres, including the Rivoli where Wednesday's blast occurred, in Amman and other cities in Jordan that screen such movies in violation of the law.

In a statement issued in the name of the 16-strong IAF bloc in the 80-seat Lower House, Ammati Deputy Hamzeh Mansour condemned the blast at the Rivoli in Amman and other cities in Jordan that screen such movies in violation of the law.

"Investigations in Egypt have showed that Mossad is behind some of the practices that targeted the lives of innocents or national objectives," said the statement, referring to extremism, including attacks on cinemas, plagues Egypt since last year.

said the IAF deputies in Parliament "denounced this despicable act which targeted innocent citizens and infringed upon the security of our dear homeland."

Such actions, it said, could only be carried out by "enemy groups," and pointed an accusing finger at Israel's infamous Mossad secret services.

"Correcting the status of cinema in the country cannot be done through this condemned act that threatens the country and the citizens, but through raising public awareness and activating legislation and censorship on what cinemas and other media means are broadcast," the statement added.

## Jordan pushes ahead in Dead Sea mineral projects

By Suleiman Al Khalidi Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan has set up a \$85 million holding company to oversee \$350 million worth of projects to exploit its Dead Sea mineral wealth, industry officials said on Thursday.

He said Israel had better exploited its Dead Sea mineral wealth because it began in the 1950s. However, Jordan's annual capacity of around 1.8 million tonnes of potash was catching up with Israel's 2.2 million tonnes.

"We have advanced in potash exploitation, but have been slow in extracting our non-potash mineral wealth," Mr. Hawari said.

The holding company will focus on three minerals considered most economically feasible — bromine, magnesium oxide and potassium sulphate — all at the core of a long-planned Dead Sea Chemical complex.

Jordan has been promoting downstream investment in the fertiliser industry to optimise benefits of the mineral-rich Dead Sea.

The U.S.-based Ethyl Corporation this month signed a memorandum of understanding for a 49 per cent share in a

\$145 million 50,000 tonne-capacity bromine plant to open at the end of 1997, Mr. Hawari said.

The joint venture agreement will be finalised in the first half of the year, with both partners securing capital costs with loans equal to their shareholding in the project, he said.

Mr. Hawari said the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) Jordan's consultants in negotiations with Ethyl, was willing to provide a loan for the bromine project.

A second project is a \$120 million magnesium oxide plant with an annual capacity of 75,000 tonnes of animal fodder and 50,000 tonnes of di calcium phosphate. It is to be operational in two years, Mr. Hawari said.

Bids will be submitted by 3 p.m. on sale day. There was no official explanation for the reduced profit, reported Reuter.

It was believed to be a result of reduced Iraqi trade through Jordan due to the

Kingdom's compliance with the sanctions, Iraq's introduction of strict trade and monetary regulations and the thorough inspection of cargo vessels bound for Aqaba.

Mr. Halasa's comments were made in Baghdad at the end of a four-day annual board meeting, co-chaired by Mr. Halasa and his Iraqi counterpart Ahmad Mortada.

According to Petra, the board also decided that plans for 1994 should include the prospect of operating its trucks outside Jordanian and Iraqi territory.

The company, jointly owned by the Baghdad and Amman governments, had forecast a \$10 million profit for 1993 in a board meeting held last May.

There was no official explanation for the reduced profit, reported Reuter.

Mr. Halasa, who returned to Amman Friday, said that \$8 million has been allocated for the purchase of new trucks,

but he declined to say when the purchase would be made.

He said the company discussed plans for operating a weekly flight between Amman and Baghdad to carry ailing Iraqis who cannot afford the 1000-kilometre overland trip between the two countries.

"We discussed all the measures that should be adopted once the United Nations approves Iraq's request for a weekly flight between both countries that was submitted two months ago," Mr. Halasa told Petra.

The company, which oversees freight between both countries, was established in 1981 with a capital of \$50 million.

Jordan was concerned that Iraqi imports through Aqaba could diminish because of the reopening of Umm Qasr.

## British team arrives for educational reform talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Khalid Al Omari Friday received a delegation representing the British Overseas Development Agency and discussed with its members possible assistance by the agency to educational development projects in Jordan, Jordan Television (JTV) reported.

JTV said the meeting focused on means of developing school

By Dr. Musa Keilani

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## First things first

**PROPHETS OF PEACE** in the Middle East see a region free of war, where democracy prevails, human rights are observed and personal freedoms reign supreme. They see people work, cooperate, prosper, and move freely. They envision megaprojects: Cooperation in a broader region, economic integration, water brought from Turkey to all the countries of the south, a Red Sea-Dead Sea and a Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal that produce enough electric power to spin the wheels of all sorts of joint industrial projects. They dream of a Jerusalem where the faithful, Muslims, Christians and Jews, will worship together instead of fighting over the Holy City.

These are all legitimate dreams that are certainly not beyond human reach. So far they have proved to be illusionary. Yet, they require great men and women who should be able to undo the tiny intricacies of ages-old hostility and animosity. To do so those men and women need to convince ordinary people of the validity of the visions of the proponents of peace.

As far as Jordan is concerned there are three issues that must be resolved before moving to the region of grander dreams. These are: Borders, water and refugees.

Jordan, like Israel, the Palestinians and everyone else, needs to regain its occupied lands and draw its borders with its neighbours. It needs to get its rightful share of the region's waters. And no less important, Jordan and all the other parties to the Middle East peace talks need to settle once and for all the issue of the people who were driven out of their homes in the 1948 and 1967 wars and in between. Those people have been the immediate victims of the conflict and unless their plight is dealt with in a just manner peace will always be threatened by their grievances.

Jordan, therefore, should not be expected to sign a peace treaty before these issues are addressed and justly resolved. Jordan is committed to peace, but for peace to hold and lead to the hoped-for security, prosperity and tranquility, it must address the basic issues first. Peace is a dream that requires a great deal of hard work and genuine goodwill on both sides of the conflict.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**AL RA'I** daily echoed His Majesty King Hussein's statement in Washington Tuesday that there can be no signing of a peace agreement with Israel without the solution of all outstanding problems first. A great number of issues still await settlement before any accord can be reached and there can be no stability or security without Israel recognising all the rights of the Jordanian people regarding their land and water, added the paper. Occupied Jordanian lands have to be returned first and a programme for the fair distribution of water should be worked out as should be the issue of refugees, which has to be solved before thinking of signing the peace accord which is the utmost goal, added the paper. King Hussein, in his talks in Washington and before the press and other fora, made these points clear with candid words and with his courageous stand, said the paper. The King was asked why he had not yet signed the peace treaty and he explained, underlining Jordan's legitimate demands that would first be met and also noting that peace should be comprehensive on all tracks, the paper continued. It said Jordan does not want a fragile peace or a shaky agreement but a solid deal that would be fair and acceptable to the coming generations and the Arab Nation at large. The paper said that King Hussein has told the world that it is not the Arabs but rather the Israelis who should take meaningful steps in order to realise the aspired peace because the Arabs are ready for that peace provided they secure their rights and regain their usurped lands.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i dwelt on the health minister's controversial statement in which he accused merchants of manipulating the food and drug trade, calling on other ministers to come out in the open and expose malpractices in their own administration. Bassam Ennush said that the health minister's statement has stirred so much concern among members of the public because he has talked about food and medicine which directly affect people's health. The writer said that he wanted the minister to stand by his statement and to provide evidence to Parliament so that action can be taken to deter public officials and merchants from pursuing their malpractices. The writer said that the government ought to hold the corrupt officials accountable for their actions based on the evidence which will be submitted in due course to Parliament. The writer urged the public to demand that the government pursue this issue and to openly try the culprits and so contribute towards enhancing democracy in Jordan.

## Jordanian Perspective

### Jordan has stated its case; history will be the judge

**HIS MAJESTY** King Hussein's talks with President Bill Clinton and other American leaders last week and his encounters with Arab-American as well as Jewish American leaders and the media represent a landmark and a turning point in the search for peace in the Middle East and American-Jordanian relations.

In his frank and forthright comments, the King left no room for ambiguity on Jordan's commitment and approach to a negotiated peace in the Middle East and his own vision of the future of the region after the basic roots of conflict have been removed.

The visit was a landmark in the sense that it helped draw the bottom line that Jordan would accept in a Middle East peace settlement and regional coexistence and outline and establish the Kingdom's perceptions of changes in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli equation to bring about a qualitative improvement in the life of the people of the region.

The visit was a turning point in the sense that the King spoke clearly of the basic requisites that would make the peace process a success and of the ingredients that should go into advancing the quest to achieve an equitable, unambiguous Arab-Israeli peace. There could not be any mistaking of the pragmatism in the Jordanian stand as made clear by the King.

For anyone who was listening, it was clear that Jordan is moving ahead with very clear perceptions of the basic issues that have to be addressed and that the Kingdom was only asking for what is internationally legitimate, fair and just in terms of the rights of sovereign countries and people.

In the short term, the King's comments effectively pulled the rug from the feet of those who had been arguing that his very visit to Washington was aimed at putting the final touches to a Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement without waiting for Jordan's other Arab partners in the Middle East peace process.

He made it clear that while Jordan was seeking progress in its negotiations with Israel it had no intention whatsoever to dump its partners and sign an accord with Israel regardless of the status of negotiations between Israel and the other three Arab parties in the process.

The reaffirmation came as no surprise to those who follow the consistent Jordanian approach against the political realities of the Middle East. But it put to rest those overenthusiastic and sceptical media hawks scrounging for short-sighted but sensational headlines.

In sum, the King's talks with the U.S. leaders and his public

comments established the basic parameters Jordan bases its stand on. These include:

— Jordan, as a sovereign entity, has its own agenda to take care of in the context of peace talks with Israel and it is capable of doing so.

— The Israeli should shift their focus on signing a "peace agreement" with Jordan as a media stunt before grappling with the issues on the table. They should abandon their sinister goal of securing a peace agreement with Jordan to advance their quest for normalisation of relations with other Arab states before addressing the basic concerns of Jordan.

— These concerns relate to occupied Jordanian territory, the Kingdom's water rights and the human dimension of the conflict, that is the fate of Palestinian refugees who remain in Jordan and the burden that the Kingdom has shouldered to host them on its territory. Israel bears a direct responsibility to compensate Jordan in the context of the refugees. Israel's argument that Jews of Arab origin need compensation does not concern Jordan since there is no record of any Jew being displaced from Jordan when the state of Israel was created in 1948. Furthermore, Jordan's demand for compensation is a bilateral issue with Israel with no prejudice on the multilateral aspect of the refugee problem and it does not have any bearing on the right of the refugees to return or to receive compensation.

— King Hussein has no problem meeting with any Israeli leader, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but any such encounter should clearly be prepared well in advance and should contribute to advancing the peace process. There is nothing abnormal in such a meeting since Jordan and Israel are negotiating peace, and there will inevitably come a time when high-level intervention to break logjams will be required. But that does not mean that the King is anxiously seeking a meeting with Mr. Rabin, as the Israeli media interpreted his comments.

Another significant aspect of the King's visit to Washington was his encounter with American Jewish leaders. It was historic in the sense that the Jewish leaders, whose powerful lobbying is behind the so-called strategic American-Israeli relationship, had to be told that Jordan always wanted peaceful coexistence based on justice, rights and fairness — the same principles that the United States of America advocates. The Jewish leaders also had to be reminded that Jerusalem is nobody's backyard. The city is holy to Muslims and Christians as well, and this religious dimension has to be addressed in a manner that satisfies all the three monotheist

religions in the world. Jordan, led by the Hashemites, who have historic links with Jerusalem, will not abandon its rights no matter what and will pursue all efforts for a solution that ensures the Muslim rights in Jerusalem. An inter-faith dialogue is the best means to achieve that, the Jewish leaders were told.

Hopefully, the listeners understood and appreciated the Jordanian stand. The simple fact is that those who might have realised the significance of what the King was saying might not have been in a listening mode and had come to that meeting with unchangeable, predetermined notions. But then they are from a breed more Israeli than Israel itself and there is nothing anybody could do about it until they themselves see logic.

In the bilateral context, all indications are that Washington has come to acknowledge the pivotal role of Jordan in the region; not that there was ever any doubt of the Kingdom's role, but Jordan was always a victim of being taken for granted.

The revival of the joint Jordanian-American Military Commission and the pledge by U.S. defence-secretary-nominee William Perry to positively consider the needs of the Jordanian Armed Forces are the best indicator yet of the visible shift in Washington's approach.

In this context, the King's comments during his talks with Mr. Perry were very clear: Jordan is not seeking to build an offensive force but it has to have the defensive ability to make anyone think twice before threatening it. Jordan is not and will not allow itself to be taken as a walkover for anyone.

By extension, any help given to Jordan to develop its armed forces could also serve the cause of international peace since the Kingdom is ready to expand its role in United Nations peacekeeping operations in any area of conflict. The Kingdom's role in former Yugoslavia is the best example to evidence its interest and commitment.

King Hussein set forth forcefully the Kingdom's perceptions and approach to resolving one of the world's most problematic conflicts where national, international, religious, cultural, economic, strategic and not-so-strategic and ideological interests have been so closely meshed together over the decades that delineating them has become an impossible task.

But Jordan knows where it stands and what it wants. It has not set its targets in the sky. Its feet remain on solid ground. It has stated its case but it is not awaiting judgement. History will be the judge.

## Major powers struggle for new policy on Bosnia

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

LONDON — The major powers are groping around for a new policy on Bosnia, but appear more divided than ever on how to stop the conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic.

The reassessment has been forced on western capitals and Moscow by the growing realisation that their former approach — peace talks, humanitarian aid to civilians, and United Nations sanctions on Serbia — is leading nowhere.

The 21-month-old war is raging on unabated. The Geneva peace talks are deadlocked the supply of aid by U.N. peacekeeping troops is becoming ever more difficult and the threat of NATO airstrikes has not been taken seriously by the warring factions.

In this bleak situation, France has taken a lead in pushing its allies for diplomatic action. President Francois Mitterrand told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday that Paris would put forward new proposals, possibly this week.

What the proposals are has not been disclosed, but a French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Richard Duque, said on Tuesday that Bosnia's feuding Serbs, Muslims and Croats had to be persuaded the only solution was through negotiation, not war.

But this week's U.S.-French talks ended in open disagreement with Christopher telling French leaders bluntly that Washington was not willing to put pressure on the Muslims to accept an imposed settlement, since it viewed them as the aggrieved party.

The French call for pressures on the Bosnian factions was also received with scepticism in Britain.

"What pressures can there be?" asked one British official with a shrug.

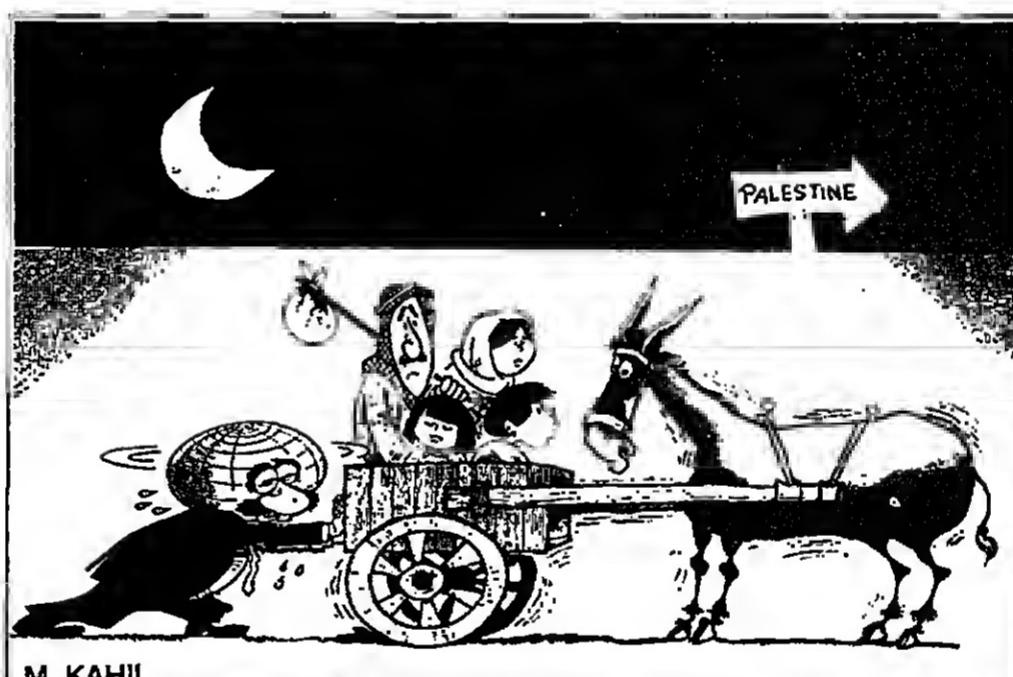
British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will fly to the United States next week for talks on Bosnia and other issues with Mr. Christopher and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali but there is little hope in London for a miracle solution.

"If you're asking, have we got any brilliant new ideas at the moment, the answer is no," one official said.

Russia called on Tuesday for an urgent meeting of U.N. Security Council foreign ministers to force the warring sides to come to a political settlement, but western diplomats said they had little enthusiasm for the idea.

Last month's elections in Russia, which saw the rise of nationalist and communist parties sympathetic to the Serbs, have made Moscow's agreement to a tough line on Bosnia even less likely, most analysts believe.

The talks resume on Feb. 10, but there is little hope they will make significant progress.



that drugs, vegetables and other foodstuffs are safe and fit for human consumption on the one hand and that they have the power to stop entry into the country of any contaminated items.

He said that the minister should have been specific about the items and about the sources of corruption and should have taken swift measures to put an end to such malpractices.

The writer said that the formation of committees to deal with the allegations would not result in anything at all. He said that the health minister had made it clear that he has proof on which the government should have immediately acted, without resorting to the help of the committees.

Mohammad Sbeiehi, a columnist in Al Dustour, predicted that the street vendors will be the only victims of the health minister's charges because the supply minister had openly attacked them on television, noting that the food they sell is unfit for human consumption.

The writer said that while this could be a wise measure, the Supply Ministry is not taking any action against merchants who keep the bad or contaminated food in their warehouses.

He said that the Supply Ministry should take strict measures against merchants who deal with meat, canned food and other foodstuffs and should not stop at punishing the street vendors who are trying to make a decent living.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised the Health Minister for alleging that Jordanians are eating garbage. He said that it was the duty of the health and the supply ministries to see to it

### No one should place the cart before the horse; no peace agreement should be signed before outstanding issues can be resolved."

The writer said that investigations, concerning the exorbitant profits drug stores make reaching 300 percent in some cases, should start immediately.

Indeed, said the writer, strict measures should be adopted by all ministries to prevent similar excesses.

He said that Israel should give up the idea of considering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as an Israeli market, should compensate or repatriate the refugees and should recognise the Arab rights to water resources before peace can be achieved.

Both Al Dustour and Sawi Al Shaab dailies commented on the outcome of King Hussein's visit to the United States by noting that he seized the opportunity to present Jordan's views and to welcome a permanent and just peace, based on justice.

Referring to the Middle

East peace process, Tareq Masarweh cited King Hussein's statements that no one should place the cart before the horse, stressing that no peace agreement should be signed before outstanding issues can be resolved.

The writer, in Al Ra'i daily, said that Jordan's demands for ending Israeli occupation of Jordanian territory and safe distribution of water resources should be met before peace can be established and that U.N. Security Council resolutions ought to be implemented before a comprehensive settlement can be reached.

Fahed Al Fanek, his col-

league in Al Ra'i, demanded not only an end to occupation of Arab land for peace to be achieved, but also guarantees at the international level that Israel would abandon its mass destruction weapons.

He said that Israel should give up the idea of considering the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as an Israeli market, should compensate or repatriate the refugees and should recognise the Arab rights to water resources before peace can be achieved.

Tareq Al Shabab supported the end of the sanctions and said that Jordan is one of the main victims of this embargo. Jordan does not only deserve a lifting of the sanctions so that it can resume normal trade with Iraq, but the Kingdom deserves compensation from the United States for all the losses the country incurred as a result of applying the sanctions and the siege imposed on Aqaba.

Western officials concede

## American ready to revive lost art of mummification

By Joanne Kenen  
Reuter

**BOCA RATON, FLA.** — Mummymaker John Chew has an alternative for dead people who find Irish linen and polyurethane preferable to ashes and dust.

The hitch is that none of the 137 people who have signed up over the past few years for his patented, modern mummy service has died.

In the meantime, Mr. Chew keeps a gauze-wrapped mannequin in a 181-kg velvet-lined bronze sarcophagus, along with a few more mundane items like coffins and viscera charts, in his mortuary sciences classroom at a small Florida college.

Mr. Chew is a gentle, soft-spoken 61-year-old licensed funeral director and teacher whose interest in Egyptology dates back to his Philadelphia boyhood, when a kindly museum curator let him dust the mummies and tutored him in the beliefs and mores of ancient Egypt, shaping what he holds today.

"The key is to maintain dignity and care for the human body," said Mr. Chew, who believes ancient Egyptians were in some ways far ahead of contemporary death-denying western society.

As Mr. Chew recognises, mummification is not for everyone. His own family has more conventional views about burial, and is hesitant about having him salted, stuffed and shelved.

But Mr. Chew and several clients of the Utah-based Summum company he works with speak of a certain solace they

get from knowing that their bodies will be eternally preserved.

For instance, Al Greco, a 45-year-old brain cancer survivor, says mummification releases him from any fear "of having my spirit see my body in a decayed state."

Though no one interviewed professed the classic Egyptian belief that the body must be preserved so the soul can re-inhabit it 3,000 years later, Mr. Greco and others believe in some form of spiritual survival. He also admires the ancient Egyptians' harmony with life and nature.

A craftsman and welder, Mr. Greco plans to design his own stainless steel sarcophagus, or "mummiform", strong enough to survive an earthquake. He will probably adorn it with tools, baseball bats or other items that gave meaning to his life.

Sue Parsons, a healthy 43-year-old piano teacher and body builder, has yet to decide whether her mummiform motif should be music or muscles. But she has made a cast of her facial features, to form a mask on her mummy.

"All other forms of burial seem to me a little bit cold," says Ms. Parsons, who hopes that mummification will gently guide her spirit to wherever it goes after this life.

Her sons accept her decision but she is still trying to find the right words to tell her conservative Christian parents back home in Kentucky.

Mr. Chew hooked up a few years ago with Summum founder Corky Ra — he changed his name to honour the Egyptian sun god — when

they met at a funeral directors' convention in Las Vegas.

They found they shared a life-long interest in Egyptology and mummification, a burial practice associated with ancient Egypt but actually used by several early societies.

Mr. Chew and his fellow Summum "thanatogeneticist" — from the Greek word "thanatos" for death — compared notes and refined their mummy procedures, which uses modern chemical drying agents and plastic coatings to speed the 70-day Egyptian method.

"We've enhanced the process," said Mr. Chew, who plans to eventually teach students and mummifiers in a one-of-a-kind programme at Lynn College in Boca Raton.

Ra, who has mummified his own pets during his patient wait for human customers, says the 137 people who have signed up are mostly young and healthy and represent a cross-section of religions and professions.

Mummification began in Egypt as a rite for the wealthy and the godlike. In modern times, it isn't cheap.

The basic treatment costs \$7,700 and the mummifications start at about \$26,000, with no upper limit if jewels and precious metals are incorporated. A \$6,000 fibreglass version is available, but not highly recommended.

Summum does not require a down payment, although it does require clients to make their wishes clear in a will and to arrange the fees, usually through a life insurance policy. The technique is much like that practised millennia ago,

when bodies were soaked in salts from the Nubian desert lakes, then wrapped and buried in the desert.

When a Summum mummy-to-be passes on, he or she will be embalmed and have a traditional funeral service, which Mr. Chew believes is important for the grieving families. But instead of burial, the mummification starts. Internal organs, except the heart, will be extracted through a 10-inch (25-cm) incision below the ribs. The organs and the body will be cleansed and soaked in a steel vat of salts and chemicals.

Unlike the ancient Egyptians, Summum will not pull the brains out through the nostrils. The brain in modern mummies will be injected with a solidifying agent, Mr. Chew said.

Once dried, the organs will be wrapped in small packets and returned to the body cavity, which is coated with polyurethane, the modern counterpart to resin. The body cavity will then be stuffed with sawdust or similar filler, a practise also used by the ancients to keep human contours.

The body will be coated and then wrapped in cloth. The person can pre-select their own fabric — Irish linen or oriental silk or another fine material for the outer layer.

Finally, the mask is placed over the face and the mummy is placed in the custom-designed mummiform, which is welded shut and injected with argon to replace the oxygen and prevent any moisture from seeping in — ever.

## King, Queen in Austria

(Continued from page 1)

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and King Hussein met at the State Department.

Mr. Christopher also commented on U.S.-Jordanian ties, telling reporters, "I'm very pleased by a number of developments in the relations between the U.S. and Jordan

since the last time I met with the King."

Following the meeting, the State Department announced the creation of a U.S.-Jordanian Bilateral Commission "to enhance cooperation... on political, economic and security issues."

The meeting with Mr.

**Zeroual sole candidate**

(Continued from page 1)

designate a new head of state. The former general has publicly proclaimed the "neutral" of the army but at the same time said that it will not be indifferent or "cross its arms" in the face of a "dangerous" turn in Algeria's situation.

He took over the defence ministry six months ago from Major-General Khaled Nezzar, a member of the five-man presidency and a tipped rival for the presidential post.

The interior minister and member of the council, Selim Saadi, and former naval chief and ex-Transport Minister Rachid Benyelles were also

said to be possible presidential candidates.

Mr. Khatib denied Gen. Zeroual's role sole candidacy marked "a return of the army." Members of the conciliation conference had demanded guarantees about the role of the army in the three-year period leading to fresh elections in 1997, Mr. Khatib said. The guarantees covered security, democracy, and pluralism, Mr. Khatib added.

Gen. Zeroual, a career officer, took part in Algeria's war of independence against French colonial rule. After the war ended in 1962, he received military training in Russia be-

tween 1965 and 1966 and in France in 1974.

## Donors agree

(Continued from page 1)

to a state, it was agreed to establish a trust fund to be administered by the World Bank.

It is to be named the Johan Joergen Holst Peace Fund in honour of the late Norwegian foreign minister who mediated in secret Israel-PLO peace negotiations and died this month.

## Hospice concept — a way of caring for the terminally-ill patients

By Najwa Kefaya  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — Most people who are suffering from a terminal illness prefer to be at home with their family and friends rather than in an in-patient unit.

According to 1988-89 statistical report, cancer was the third leading cause of death in Jordan, making up 3.5 per cent of male deaths and 6.4 per cent of female deaths. In 1991, 2,316 patients were treated for cancer at the Jordan University Hospital, and approximately 1,214 new cases were diagnosed in the same year. Until recently, for terminally ill patients in Jordan it was not possible to choose between staying at home and being admitted into an in-patient unit.

Palliative care services (care for comfort when a cure is no longer possible) were not available for terminally ill patients in their own home. In addition, no support services were available for families and health care professionals caring for these patients.

The need for such comprehensive services was recognised by a group of concerned people in the community, including health care professionals, religious leaders and local businessmen. These people explored the possibility of establishing a home based on a palliative care programme. A consultant from the International Hospice Institute, sup-

ported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), assisted in developing a proposal for the establishment of such a programme in Jordan. As a result, the hospice concept was introduced in Jordan and has since developed into a non-profit voluntary hospice society — the Malath Foundation for Humanistic Care (Hospice). This project was launched under the umbrella of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and was formally established in April 1993 with the initial funds granted by USAID.

A professional group which oversees the day to day operations of the foundation is headed by a programme director who is a nurse with a master's degree. In addition, there are four committees which deal with the various activities of the foundation. These committees are educational training, patient management, volunteers and marketing and spiritual support. Services have been successfully provided to five patients and their families over the past six months. New cases are gradually being undertaken by the foundation.

This initiative has given the terminally ill in Jordan a better chance of spending their last days in their own home environment, thus allowing them as much dignity, peace and consolation as possible. At the same time, adequate health care by professionally trained personnel is provided for managing their pain and controlling the physical symptoms of their illness, as well as addressing their other needs such as spiritual, psychological and social.

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In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Sawsan Al Majali, president of the foundation, said that the home care unit is only one part of this project. The future plans of the foundation include the establishment of an in-patient unit. The in-patient unit, according to Dr. Majali, will be set up to serve the living as well as the

dying. It will act as a community-based programme which aims at maintaining patients — as much as possible — at home with the support of an interdisciplinary, trained health team. This team includes physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, specialised therapists, religious clergy, as well as other professionals who may be needed. The project now has a board of directors which is responsible for fund raising and major policy decisions.

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The hospice programme, which is based on a comprehensive approach to care, advocates continuous physiological, sociological, educational, spiritual and emotional care. It concentrates on the patient and the family as the unit for care. Therefore, it invests in the health care team and not in costly technology.

## Latest fad of China's rich — platinum jewellery

By Mark O'Neill  
Reuter

annual income for an urban resident of China in 1993.

The story is the same at the other jewellery shops that have sprung up on Wangfujing, in part to cater to people concerned their money will lose value amid China's high urban inflation.

"We started selling platinum jewellery several months ago," said a saleswoman at one shop.

"It appeals to young rich city men who think it is classier than gold. They like the fact that many people do not know how valuable it is, which appeals to their sense of exclusiveness. And designs are improving."

"Only city people buy platinum. Rural people all buy gold. And if you are giving a present, it is safer to give gold jewellery," she said.

Gold jewellery sells in most shops for about 132 yuan (\$15.2) a gramme, compared to 175 yuan (\$20) for platinum.

Chinese, suspicious of paper

money, have for centuries bought gold as an investment. But platinum has gained popularity as some Chinese become rich enough to look beyond gold.

In Chinese, platinum is "white gold", an auspicious name.

A spokesman for the China Jewellery Import and Export Corp said the market for platinum jewellery was still limited, although he gave no figures. China does not publish figures on platinum production or sales.

At Da Ming, Mr. Chen said: "Gold jewellery still sells better than platinum."

But platinum sales have been fuelled by the growth in the number of what ordinary Chinese call "da kuan" (fat cats), who think nothing of spending several hundred yuan — a month's income for a Beijing resident — on a single luncheon at a high-class res-

taurant.

"I like it because it is worth more than gold and because it is still exclusive," said a businessman in his 30s who was buying a platinum ring. "Many people do not know how valuable it is."

An official survey published in November found the richest three per cent in China had more money in the bank, 293.2 billion yuan (\$33.7 billion), than all of the nation's 900 million farmers, who have deposits of only 273.7 billion (\$31.5 billion).

According to official figures, the average urban citizen last year earned about 2,300 yuan (\$264) and his cousin in the countryside \$40 yuan (\$57).

Most of the urban fat cats are entrepreneurs or work for companies with good official connections, giving them privileged access to goods, raw materials, land, transport and bank credit.

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# World News

## U.S. plans more arms deployment in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — The United States seeks to deploy other advanced weapons in South Korea besides Patriot defence batteries to counter threats from North Korea, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Friday.

"The U.S. and our country have been working on improving combat capabilities, including the deployment of Patriot missiles," he said, commenting on local news reports that 36 Patriot launchers would be deployed in March or April. "The United States is going to deploy two battalions of Apache (attack) helicopters and replace old equipment with advanced (equipment) under the force improvement plan," he said.

U.S. forces now keep older Cobra helicopters in South Korea.

The spokesman confirmed Seoul's support for the deployment of Patriot missiles, which were used with some success in the Gulf War to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles.

"There is no reason why we should oppose the plan. We constantly face military threats from the North and we have to brace up to any contingencies," he said.

But he denied the timing and size of the deployment had been decided. "The question of when and how many have yet to be decided through close (South) Korean-U.S. consultation," he said.

South Korea's state radio and national Yonhap News Agency quoted an unnamed government official as saying Friday the box-like Patriot launchers would be deployed in March; or April at U.S. military bases on the Korean peninsula.

The preparation for early deployment is also aimed at putting pressure on the difficult negotiations between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the official was quoted as telling local media.

"I understand the missiles will eventually be deployed in Japan if North Korea's nuclear

issue is resolved," he was quoted as saying.

A South Korean presidential spokesman said he had no knowledge of a plan for Japanese deployment.

South Korean and U.S. officials have become increasingly impatient over the lack of progress in talks aimed at compelling the North to allow inspections of suspected nuclear sites.

In Vienna, IAEA spokesman David Kyd said the plan to deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea was unlikely to affect talks to persuade Pyongyang to allow full examination of seven declared sites under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

North Korea was trying to limit the scope of IAEA inspections in several significant ways, according to the agency.

Some South Korean lawmakers have expressed concern that the missile plan might provoke unpredictable North Korea but Washington officials indicated that President Bill Clinton was leaning towards approving a request for Patriots from the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea.

Patriots could be used against a North Korean variant of tactical Scud missiles and a more sophisticated version of the Rodong missile capable of reaching most points in South Korea.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said on U.S. television Thursday that U.S. and South Korean forces could deal with any "provocation" by North Korea.

Dismissing arguments that U.S. and South Korean troops would be overwhelmed by an invading North Korean force, he said: "We are convinced that the United States and the Republic of Korea combined have adequate force and readiness to deal with any military provocation by North Korea."

The United States and South Korea have applied carrot-and-stick measures to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear aspirations.

Mr. Han told a seminar this

week a decision would be taken within three weeks on whether to carry on efforts to secure a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

The United States has said it will seek sanctions against Pyongyang if it prevents proper inspection.

Meanwhile, North Korea's official news agency accused the United States and South Korea Friday of staging "provocative joint air war exercises" in the skies of South Korea this week, quoting military sources.

"Overseas-based FA-18s, A-7s and other fighters of the U.S. Marines and 160 fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the South Korean Air Force held in an air battle exercise for the command of the air and an air attack operation in the skies above Ryujin, Hongchon and Tanyang," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said, quoting military sources.

First Lady Hillary Clinton (left) talks with homeowner Raymond O'Keefe as he describes how his house in Hollywood was destroyed by the earthquake (AFP photo)

Said the exercises took place Tuesday and Wednesday.

Over 100 fighter-bombers and assault planes held a surprise attack exercise on ground targets in the skies above Nyongwol, Pyongchang and Tokjok Island, and an exercise of "commandos" dropping, air-lifting (and) detecting air-targets... took place in the skies above Phaju and Chun-chon," KCNA said.

Meanwhile, formations of assault planes and helicopter gunboats which were flown to support a ground attack operation held a combined exercise with motorised infantry units of the South Korean army in order to practice "for a breakthrough on the military demarcation line and an advance into the depth," the agency said.

The reported U.S.-South Korean decision to deploy Patriot missiles in the South would be an "unpardonable grave military challenge," North Korea said Friday.

Peace mediator Lord David Owen called the killing of 35-year-old Paul Goodall, father of four daughters, a "cold-blooded shooting," and a "great tragedy."

"If this kind of thing continues," said spokesman Ron Redmond for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, "we won't be able to operate."

Mr. Goodall and the two other drivers, 27-year-old Simon King and 42-year-old David Court, were returning to their hotel in Zenica, a government-held town about 65 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo late Thursday when the attack occurred.

Mr. Redmond said three unidentified men in uniform armed with assault weapons halted the Briton's four-wheel-drive vehicle and demanded that they drive to an overpass about three kilometres (1.8 miles) from Zenica. They then demanded the vehicle, but after it was turned over, one of the gunmen ordered the other two to kill the aid workers.

It offers to bring Sinn Fein in from the cold and give it equal treatment with mainstream political parties in Northern Ireland, providing the organisation publicly renounces violence and gets the IRA to bring its war on Britain to an end of March.

The declaration acknowledges the right of all Irish people to shape the future of their island but gives Protestant Unionists who want to maintain 300-year-old links with Britain a veto over any moves towards reunification.

Officially, Sinn Fein says it is committed to peace but its charter says it understands Irish people who resort to violence to end British "occupation" of Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein has in vain demanded clarification on the text of the Dec. 15 Anglo-Irish joint declaration, which says Britain would not object to the reunification of Ireland if a majority in Northern Ireland agreed.

Its main thrust is to end 25 years of violence and get Catholics throughout the island and the pro-British Protestant majority in Northern Ireland talking about joint future.

Sinn Fein was under renewed pressure to make a clear



First Lady Hillary Clinton (left) talks with homeowner Raymond O'Keefe as he describes how his house in Hollywood was destroyed by the earthquake (AFP photo)

## Britain suspends Bosnia aid convoy after killing of driver

SARAJEVO (Agencies) —

An armed gang halted three Britons on a relief mission in central Bosnia, robbed them, and then opened fire, officials said Friday. One aid worker was killed and two were wounded.

The new bloodshed highlighted growing lawlessness and desperation in central Bosnia, where food is dangerously short. Aid officials warned such attacks could endanger their entire mission to feed hungry Bosnians.

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Mr. Goodall was killed immediately by two shots to the head, and the other two were wounded as they ran. Mr. Ring was wounded in the shoulder and arm. Mr. Court was shot in the back, and the bullet exited his chest.

Both were transported to a British military hospital in nearby Vitez. Mr. Court, the more seriously wounded of the two, was in serious but stable condition.

Mr. Goodall's body was found in a mine field about 50 metres from the road. Officials said U.N. soldiers had to clear the minefield to reach his body. The former British soldier had been a member of the Royal Engineers, and had been on mine-clearing assignment during the Gulf War.

He was the father of daughters aged 10, 8, 6, and 2 years.

The drivers worked for Britain's Overseas Development Administration, but were working at the time for UNHCR.

"We call upon the local authorities to bring whoever is responsible to justice as soon as possible," said an official, with the Overseas Development Administration in London, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The attack highlighted a breakdown on law in the Zenica area. Several food convoys have been attacked in recent weeks, and six Bosnian police escorts were wounded in nearby Kakanj earlier in the week.

Food is critically short in the town of Kakanj, south of Zenica.

The spokesman said Britain wanted to consider the implications of the attack on the three workers.

"All British aid convoys throughout the whole of Yugoslavia have been suspended while we consider what our next move will be," the spokesman said. He could not say how long the suspension would last.

## De Klerk gets mixed reception from blacks

BELFAST, South Africa (AFP) — Blacks greeted President F.W. De Klerk with a mixture of applause and hostility Friday as he took his election campaign to South Africa's eastern Transvaal province.

Mr. De Klerk began the second day of his three-day sweep through the region with his first vote-seeking visit to a black township.

But most of the residents of Hlatanikhala, outside the coal-mining town of Witbank, were less than pleased to see the president.

Bands of youths shouted "down with De Klerk" as he arrived in the township.

His attempt to speak to the

crowd was drowned out by the chanting of African National Congress (ANC) supporters.

Mr. De Klerk visited the house of a black supporter of his ruling National Party (NP), before telling the crowd that the ANC could not be trusted to run the country after the April 27-29 all-race election.

The NP supporter, Simon Maseke, told journalists he had joined the NP last year after he was offered a job as a bricklayer.

While De Klerk was there, township residents threatened to burn Mr. Maseke's house and police said they evacuated Mr. Maseke after the president's departure.

Mr. De Klerk also received a

hot reception in the black township of Lynnview, where people chanted ANC slogans as he visited a migrant labour hostel that had been turned into family units — and where he was served tea by a woman wearing an ANC T-shirt.

Mr. De Klerk's foray to a potato farm near Belfast was far more successful.

Hundreds of black farm workers and their white employers waved NP flags and chanted "viva De Klerk" as the president arrived.

He told the workers not to be afraid of ANC intimidation because the ballot in April's three-day election would be secret.

The Zapatistas seized several Chiapas cities on New Year's Day but has retreated to jungle strongholds following heavy attacks by the Mexican army. More than 100 people died in the early days of the rebellion.

"The most important matter for the country is the re-establishment of a just and lasting peace," he said.

"For that, a necessary condition is that democracy advances with an impartial (presidential) election in 1994 that is accepted by the citizens and the political forces of Mexico," said Mr. Carpio, a respected human rights defender who became interior minister when President Carlos Salinas de Gortari reshuffled his cabinet following the outbreak of the Zapatista rebellion.

The agreement calls for, among other things, independent electoral authorities, an end to use of government funds by any political party and a prosecutor to pursue those accused of electoral fraud. It also calls for fair treatment of all parties in the Mexican media, which traditionally has given most of its coverage to PRI candidates.

Friends say little blame can be put at Mr. O'Donnell's door since he has had weak material to work with. But rumblings of discontent in the Conservative Party have grown in recent weeks.

As Mr. O'Donnell returns to a senior post in treasury, it comes Mr. Meyer, a former deputy ambassador to Washington given to wearing lurid socks and braces under elegantly tailored suits.

In separate reforms adopted by Mexico's Electoral Tribunal Thursday, campaign spending

poor would have better representation.

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The rebels, many of whom are descendants of the ancient Mayan civilisation, say their people have been repressed by large landowners who together with the government and military have taken their land and attempted to destroy their culture.

Early on, they threatened to move on Mexico City to overthrow the government and hold fair elections so that the

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## Quake food lines swell as Mrs. Clinton visits area

LOS ANGELES (R) —

Thousands of earthquake victims lined up for food stamps as first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visited quake-ravaged areas that her husband missed on his tour last week.

The lines for food stamps were reminiscent of the bread lines during the Great Depression of the 1930s, but there was no repeat of the unruly scenes of Wednesday when tempers flared as frustrated help seekers were turned away.

Mrs. Clinton toured parts of south central Los Angeles that were torn by riots in 1992 and then rocked by the Jan. 17 earthquake, as well as a devastated street in Hollywood.

When President Bill Clinton visited the area two days after the earthquake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter Scale, he concentrated on the hardest hit area, the San Fernando Valley.

That brought protests from mostly black and Hispanic south central, still struggling to overcome the devastating effects of the April 1992 riots which killed 54 people, closed hundreds of businesses and left the area in economic chaos.

The area, like much of Los Angeles, suffered serious damage in the earthquake.

Mrs. Clinton visited a school in south central where she talked to children and attended an earthquake counselling session.

The fourth, fifth and sixth-grade youngsters read essays to Mrs. Clinton that they had written about the quake.

One girl, identified only as Wendy, read an essay saying, "I was sleeping when I jumped up... My bed was jumping up and down and to the sides... I don't care if we die, it's all up to God."

Shortly before Mrs. Clinton arrived in the region, the city was rocked by a 4.5-magnitude aftershock which jolted Angelinos, already frazzled.

It was the strongest aftershock in three days and building safety officials said it was severe enough to warrant the re-inspection of many buildings that had been weakened by the quake but which had been declared safe.

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan was due in Washington Friday to try to persuade lawmakers to pass Mr. Clinton's supplemental aid bill for an additional \$6 billion for the stricken area.

"California needs the nation's help. But we dare not settle for rough estimates or outright guesses at the cost. If we do, we risk being seriously short-changed by Congress because we rushed to judgment," Mr. Riordan said before boarding an overnight flight.

He said the city should have its damage assessment completed in about 10 days. "Then we will know what it will take to rebuild."

The Northridge earthquake killed 60 people, and the damage was expected to be over \$30 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

# Sports

## Price helps Cavs stop charging Bulls

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Mark Price led the Cavaliers on a fourth-quarter scoring spree Thursday that helped Cleveland rein in the charging Chicago Bulls.

Price scored five of his 21 points during a decisive 18-2 run midway through the final quarter as the surging Cavs snapped Chicago's seven-game winning streak with a 100-84 win.

Gerald Wilkins, who also scored five points during the surge, finished with 17 points as the Cavs won for the seventh time in their last nine games.

Scottie Pippen had a season-high 31 points to pace the Bulls, who erased a 13-point halftime deficit and closed within 66-65 after three quarters.

The Cavs made 15-of-21 shots from the field in the fourth quarter and outscored the Bulls, 34-19.

Cleveland, which evened its record at 20-20, also has won four straight home games and nine of its last 10 at the coliseum.

Chicago, who fell to a full game behind the Atlanta Hawks in the central division, played without forward Toni Kukoc and guard John Paxson. Kukoc is out with the flu, while

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Faisali draws with Kuwait's Al Salimiya 1-1

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali Friday drew with Kuwait's Al Salimiya 1-1 in both teams' final matches in the Arab Cup Winners' Cup Soccer tournament held in Doha, Qatar. Salimiya's goal was scored in the 39th minute of the first half by Issa Falah and Al Faisali's Subhi Suleiman scored the equaliser five minutes later. Although Al Faisali dominated most of the match, it was unable to adjust the result and end a streak of losses and bad performance. In earlier matches, Al Faisali was beaten by Al Ahli of Qatar 3-0, Tunisia's Al Najim Al Sahili 2-1 and Sudanese Marda 3-1. Thus Al Faisali was eliminated from the championship's first round and is expected back in Amman Sunday.

### FIFA blocks \$170,000 from Cameroun

YAOUNDE (AFP) — FIFA has just blocked 100 million AFC francs to Cameroun for their World Cup preparations, a reliable source revealed here Friday. The news comes on the day Cameroun World Cup spokesman Paul Celestin Ndembyem said the nation's organisational committee would be discussing World Cup accommodation plus sponsoring spin-offs. Also, weekly journal Dikalo said Thursday English company Reebok offered 3 billion AFC francs (\$3 million) in sponsorship for the Lions. However, the offer was not confirmed Friday by Cameroun officials.

### Russian jumper breaks record

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian triple jumper Inna Lassovskaya beat her women's indoor world record, leaping 14.78 metres at the armed forces winter championships here Thursday. Last January 14, she had set previous world record at 14.61 metres, improving on the 14.47 metres set by Ukrainian Inessa Kravets March 14, 1993 in Toronto.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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### DIAMONDS TO GOLD

East-West vulnerable. East deals.  
NORTH ♦ A 10 8 7  
V A Q 5 4  
♦ Q A  
\* 7 6 5  
WEST ♦ E 3  
\* 10 9 7  
V K J 8 6  
9 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ K 10 2  
\* J 10 2 ♦ A K 9 8 3  
SOUTH ♦ K Q J 9 6 5 4  
V 3 2  
♦ J 3  
\* Q 4

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1 ♦ 3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦  
Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Jack of ♦

Listen to the bidding. More often than not there are enough clues in the auction to make the play of the hand an open book.

At favorable vulnerability, we endorse South's decision to preempt at the three-level despite the fact the side-suit distribution could not have been worse. The fine seven-card suit, in itself, gave the inference a measure of safety. North's raise was impeccable.

The defenders started with two



French driver Francois Delecour (right) and teammate Didier Grataloup spray champagne after winning the 62nd Monte Carlo Rally on Thursday. Delecour, at the wheel of a Ford Escort Cosworth, held off a trio of world champions to finish 65 seconds clear of reigning champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland (AP photo)

## Harding admits failure to tell what she knew

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Her hands trembling and her voice strained, Tonya Harding admitted Thursday that she failed to come forward with what she learned after the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, but pleaded not to be denied "my last chance" at an Olympic gold medal.

The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) said it was "deeply concerned" about Harding's admission. The committee and the U.S. Figure Skating Association have said Harding could be removed from the team if she is linked to the attack.

"I had no prior knowledge of the planned assault on Nancy Kerrigan," Harding said. "I am responsible, however, for failing to report things I learned about the assault when I returned home from nationals."

"Many of you will be unable to forgive me for that. It will be difficult for me to forgive myself."

Her statement came as her ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, spoke to investigators for the second consecutive day in what a source said was an attempt to cut a deal in exchange for implicating Harding in the Jan. 6 attack.

Harvey Schiller, executive director of the USOC, issued a statement saying the organisation "is deeply concerned with statements made today by Tonya Harding relative to her stated knowledge of the attack on Nancy Kerrigan at the national championships."

The figure skating association said Harding would be on the list of official entries in the Lillehammer Games submitted to the USOC, but the association has appointed a hearing panel to investigate, a first step



Tonya Harding

in the process that could lead to her removal from the team.

The USOC noted that the women's figure skating roster can be changed as late as Feb. 21.

Schiller said Harding's name would be on the U.S. roster submitted to international Olympic officials Jan. 31, but added that the USOC "is prepared under constitutional procedures, to initiate any action deemed appropriate relative to the conduct of any athlete entered in the games."

The Oregonian newspaper reported in its Friday edition that Harding lied to authorities early in her Jan. 18 interview with them, then changed her story when her interrogators told her they knew she wasn't telling the truth.

The newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying that after investigators said they knew she was lying, Harding conferred with her lawyer, then came back and amended her answers. In those amended answers, she implicated Gillooly, the Oregonian said.

## Venables appointed England boss

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Terry Venables was appointed Friday as coach of England's National soccer team.

The 51-year-old former Tottenham and Barcelona manager signed a 2 1/2-year contract which will take him through the 1996 European Championships in England.

He replaces Graham Taylor, who resigned in November after England's failure to reach this summer's World Cup finals.

"I'm delighted and honoured to be appointed."

"It's been a very turbulent time for me," he said. "Now what I want to do is put all the distractions behind me and concentrate on the most important task of my career."

Venables was referring to allegations that he was involved in Transfer and other soccer transactions that breached Football Association (FA) regulations.

"We are satisfied with the assurances we have received from Terry Venables," said F.A. chairman Sir Bert Millichip. "The very fact that he is being appointed illustrates our confidence in him."

Millichip declined to discuss details of the contracts, but news reports said it includes safeguards to protect the F.A. against any further damaging revelations about Venables' business dealings.

The fast-rising former college star said he was "pretty excited."

Edberg missed the opportunity to play in his sixth Australian Open final. He had been runner-up three of the previous four years.

Martin, a 23-year-old from Lansing, Michigan, has risen from 73rd to 12th in the world rankings over the last 12 months.

The No. 9 seed sent service

## Sampras to face Martin in Australian Open final

MELBOURNE (AP) — It's an all-American final between two all-American guys.

It's the top player in the sport Pete Sampras — against no-name Todd Martin at the Australian Open.

Sampras was awesome in ending the two-year reign of his friend and rival Jim Courier, winning 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals Friday without dropping serve.

Martin was methodical, and occasionally inspired, as he defeated two-time champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the No. 4 seed, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-4) to progress to the first Grand Slam final of his career.

Sampras, the world's top-ranked player, kept on track for his third successive Grand Slam title. He already is the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion.

He took just 2 hours, 2 minutes to ouplay Courier, his friend and sometime gold partner.

Sampras will be bidding to become the first man since Roy Emerson in 1964-65 to hold the Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Australian titles simultaneously.

It will be the first all-American men's final at the tournament since Johan Kriek beat Steve Denton in 1982.

So complete was Sampras' dominance over the defending champion that Courier did not get a break point until the fourth game of the third set. Courier had only four forehand winners in the entire match.

"That was one of the better matches I've played so far in my career," said Sampras. "Everything really clicked today. I really couldn't play any better."

Both finalists are laid-back, deliberate and oh, so polite. Their mom nad pop and apple pie images are a far cry from the brashness of their predecessors Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and Andre Agassi.

Martin capitalized on Edberg's below-par serve to beat the 1985 and 1987 champion in a very tight match.

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Todd Martin

returns rocketing pass Edberg on both the forehand and backhand sides and frequently was able to pass Edberg when the Swede charged the net.

"He read my serve," conceded Edberg, who said he served at only "85 to 90 per cent," of his ability.

The win took Martin 3 hours, 50 minutes.

"I've believed I could do this for a long time," said Martin, who has won only one title in his professional career.

Edberg was 24-13 in tiebreakers last year — the fifth best average in tennis — but Martin kept his nerve after squandering first a service break in the fourth set and then four match points in the final tiebreaker. He clinched victory with an ace.

Martin served consistently

well throughout the match,

hammering down 13 aces and

only one double-fault. He hit

93 winners to Edberg's 74.

Martin missed several passing shots by inches in the first set, when Edberg used lobs to strand the American at the net.

But those passing shots

started going in during

the second set, as Martin refilled

shots down both lines. Martin

led the second set 5-3, but lost

three straight games and bad to

win the set in a tiebreaker.

Edberg saved three set

points in the third-set tiebreak-

er, including one easy volley at

the net that Martin slammed

wildly long. But Martin pre-

vailed on his fourth set point,

passing Edberg with a forehand

shot and punching the air in

triumph.

Martin also won the fourth

set in a tiebreaker, taking it 7-5

after leading 6-0.

He slammed an ace down

the middle, then bit a ball high

into the stands and raised his

arm in triumph.

Edberg, who had said before

the match that Mario had no

thing in his armory to worry

him, patted the tall American

on the back as they met at the

net.

Even while he was scoring

the biggest victory of his young

career, Martin maintained his

mild-mannered demeanor. He

apologised after almost hitting

a ballboy with a shot, and lifted

his finger to his mouth to si-

lence a spectator who yelled in

triumph after an Edberg

double-fault.

Martin became the lowest-

seeded player to make the Au-

stralian open final since Milos

lav Meir, also seeded ninth,

lost to Ivan Lendl in the all-

Czech 1989 final.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Roman Catholic mission to Tiger heartland

COLOMBO (AFP) — A Roman Catholic church delegation has disclosed an undisclosed peace plan with Tamil Tiger guerrillas in Sri Lanka's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula. Tamil sources here said Friday. The delegation, led by Archbishop Nicholas Marcus Fernando, had held talks with Anton Balagam, the theoretician of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Thursday, the sources said. The archbishop is currently on a visit to the island's northern region which is mostly under rebel control. The bishop presided over a "peace meeting" of Catholic priests in the region, the sources said. In January last year, the Anglican Bishop of Colombo, Kenneth Fernando, visited Jaffna and secured the release of two policemen held by Tigers, but his mission was criticised by hardliners in the majority Sinhalese community. The latest Catholic initiative came as Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called on the Tigers to reconsider a decision to execute their deputy leader and free all captured security personnel in a bid to help a fresh peace effort.

## Sudan rejects Eritrean infiltration

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan, responding to Eritrean charges, has said it would never allow factions opposed to neighbouring governments to cross its borders and attack them, a Sudanese newspaper said on Friday. The government-owned Al Nasr (Victory) daily said Sudan's United Nations mission had responded to charges relayed by Eritrea to the Security Council about attacks by infiltrators from Sudan. The Sudanese statement said Khartoum respected the sovereignty of neighbouring countries, did not interfere in their affairs and would not allow any hostile group to cross its borders to threaten their security, it said. Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki charged about a month ago that 20 militants crossing from Sudan had been killed in clashes with the Eritrean army. Sudan at the time denied any knowledge of the alleged incident. "Sudan cannot permit any force to enter Eritrea to threaten its security and stability," the Sudanese statement quoted by Al Nasr said. It said Sudan's relationship with Eritrea was marked by friendship and cooperation and Khartoum, despite its limited resources, had tried to help Eritrea's development since it gained independence from Ethiopia last May. About half a million Eritrean refugees live in Sudan.

## Mauritania holds local elections

NOUAKCHOTT (AFP) — Some 745,000 Mauritanians were called to the polls Friday to vote for their local councils, almost two years after the first multi-party general elections were boycotted by the main opposition. Voting proceeded calmly, witnesses and reports said, with the polls in the 208 districts of the country closed at 7:00 p.m. (1900 GMT). Officials gave no details of the turnout. The results are due to be released on Saturday. Analysts said the political stakes were not high in the poll, which were seen more as a test of the relative popularity of the three main parties, since the opposition was this time taking part. The ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party (PRDS) has presented 194 lists of candidates, while the main opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) has put up 60 lists. The UDF boycotted the March 1992 general election after its secretary general, Ahmad Ould Daddah, was defeated two months earlier in a presidential poll where the party complained of irregularities.

## Israel to train, equip Congolese army

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has signed a multi-million-dollar deal to train and equip the Congolese army, the Yedioth Aharonot daily reported here Friday. Some 20 Israeli reserve officers and some former officers of the Shin Bet internal security service will train Brazzaville's forces, the newspaper said. The deal, regarded as one of the largest military aid contracts clinched by Israel in recent years, was signed by the Congolese government and the Israeli arms export firm Levadon. It was approved by the Israeli defence ministry. Supporters of Congolese President Pascal Lissouba clashed with opposition militants in November and December last year. The West African state restored diplomatic relations with Israel in 1991.

## Curfew in Madagascar to quell student riot

ANTANANARIVO (R) — Police imposed an overnight curfew on a town on the Indian Ocean island state of Madagascar after students sacked businesses and homes, state-run radio said on Friday. It said the curfew was imposed on Thursday on Antsirabe, 170 kilometres south of the capital city of Antananarivo, gangs of students wrecked 10 homes and businesses owned by Asians. Police sources said students took to the streets to protest against teachers joining a 48-hour strike by state employees.

## Israelis beat up Palestinian photographer

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israeli troops beat up and threatened to kill a Palestinian press photographer during clashes between the army and Palestinians here Friday, journalists said. Journalists reported that 24-year-old Atta Wessat, employed by the Israeli photographic agency Zoom 77, was beaten with rifle butts by members of an Israeli undercover unit who were dressed as Arabs. The soldiers, later joined by border guards, threatened to shoot Mr. Wessat at point blank range. He was taken to hospital with facial cuts. The Israeli army has banned photographing members of undercover units to avoid revealing their identities.

## Nigerian, Indian beheaded in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — A Nigerian and an Indian were beheaded in Jeddah in western Saudi Arabia Friday for drug-trafficking, the Saudi Interior Ministry announced. The Nigerian, Mauro Shikuni, was arrested as he was trying to hand over heroin, and the Indian, Zahid Hussein, was found trying to bring hashish into the country, the ministry said in a statement read out on Saudi Television. The executions brought to three the number of people beheaded in the kingdom since Jan. 1. A Saudi man was beheaded on Jan. 6 for murder. Saudi Arabia introduced the death sentence for drug-traffickers and persistent drug abusers in 1987. Some 85 people were executed in the kingdom last year, the Interior Ministry said.

## Saudi king backs Charles's school

LONDON (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia donated £2.5 million (\$3.74 million) on Friday to an architecture school set up by Prince Charles, calling the gift a gesture of thanks for the British heir apparent's interest in Islam. The money was handed over to officials by the Saudi ambassador to London, Ghazi Alghasib, the Saudi embassy said in a statement. It said the donation "was in appreciation of the Prince of Wales' initiative in supporting a meaningful dialogue between Islam and the West," a reference to a speech in which Prince Charles called for greater understanding between the two traditions. The prince's speech last October, which paid tribute to the historical importance of Islam, was well-received in the Muslim World and earned him a warm welcome when he toured Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, shortly afterwards.

## Second ex-Italian premier for graft trial

TURIN, Italy (R) — Former Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria was committed Friday for trial on corruption charges, judicial sources said. Mr. Goria, whose trial will begin in the northern city of Turin on Feb. 22, was the second former prime minister to be put up for trial in two days. Bettino Craxi will go on trial in a separate case in Italy's graft scandals on March 29.

## Yemeni leaders invited to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has invited Yemeni government leaders Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salem Al Beidi as well as other Yemeni politicians to Amman to sign a reconciliation accord to end the political crisis plaguing the Arabian Peninsula country since mid-1992, informed sources said Friday.

"Some of the influential Yemeni political leaders are insisting that the signing of the accord take place on Yemeni soil since it is a Yemeni national reconciliation and reform agreement," said a Yemeni source.

"They say that all Arab

and non-Arab leaders who

had been active in trying to

mediate the crisis be invited

to attend the ceremony," said the source.

Hosting the signing is not

an end in itself for Jordan,

which has offered its good

offices to supervise the amalgamation of the armies of the former North and South Yem-

en.

Despite the merger, the two Yemeni armies have not

been incorporated into a

single unit, and this state of

affairs had led to high tension

at one point in the run-up to

the accord, with both sides

accusing each other of threatening military moves.

Mr. Saleh, leader of the General People's Congress (GPC), ruled the conservative North Yemen and Mr. Beedi of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) headed the Marxist south before the merger of Yemen after 300 years of separation.

In general elections held in April last year, the GPC and YSP emerged as the two dominant groups and agreed to form a coalition government headed by Mr. Saleh as president and Mr. Beedi as vice-president. The Islamist Al Islah party was later invited to the coalition.

But political differences emerged thereafter, with Mr. Beedi accusing Mr. Saleh and his GPC of trying to dominate the country and running an elimination campaign against southern leaders.

According to sources in Sanaa, the federal capital of Yemen which was also the capital of North Yemen before the May 1990 merger, and in Aden, the southern stronghold which served as pre-unity South Yemeni

capital, both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedi welcomed the King's invitation. But it was not clear whether they agreed that the signing of the accord take place in Amman.

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en.

## Aid worker, journalists shot dead in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Three Italian journalists were killed in Mostar, and gunmen in central Bosnia killed one British aid worker and wounded two others before stealing their truck.

The new bloodshed highlighted growing lawlessness and desperation in central Bosnia, were the food supply is dangerously short, and Croat-Muslim fighting has continued despite the bitter winter weather.

Captain Guy Vinet said three journalists were killed by a mortar shell in eastern Mostar, where Muslims are under siege by Croat forces. The hotly contested Mostar is the main city in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The men, working for RAI, the state-owned Italian television, were identified by their office as Marco Luchetta, a journalist, Alessandro Ota, cameraman, and Dario D'Angelo, a driver and assistant.

They were travelling in a Red Cross convoy and stopped to film during a battle in eastern Mostar, a Muslim zone, when they were killed, said Sergio Cianciani, a fellow journalist with RAI.

Elsewhere, the shooting death of British aid driver Paul Goodall, 35, the father of four daughters, clearly came as a shock. He was the 11th U.N. aid worker to die in Bosnia.

The head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, condemned it as a "senseless, cold-blooded killing."

They were taken to a British military hospital in nearby Vitez.

Mr. Goodall's body was found 50 metres from the road in a mine field.

The drivers, from Britain's Overseas Development Administration, were on assignment to the U.N. relief agency.

Crowds of wailing relatives, mostly villagers and tribespeople, waited for the search teams to bring up each body, covered in a white shroud.

The paper said many of the extricated bodies showed signs of bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears, which it said were signs of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The disaster revived calls for better safety standards in an industry that has repeatedly suffered high casualties.

The Times of India reported that accidents claimed the lives of 149 miners in 1992 and about 24,500 since the beginning of the century.

In an editorial, the Hindu said a two-year-old recommendation by a four-member U.S. government team apparently had not been carried out to install safety measures and fire-fighting equipment in Indian mines worth \$14 million, to be financed by the International Development Association.

"Now we must get to work on what most people want the most — stimulus measures to help the economy," he said. While up to 70 per cent of

miners have lost all their teeth by then, unless dental hygiene improves remarkably.

**Trapped miners survived for 6 hours**

CALCUTTA (Agencies) —

"It is now 10 p.m. We are still alive," said the note tucked under the wristwatch of a dead miner whose body was extricated from a burning shaft in eastern India.

The note, quoted Friday by newspapers, indicated that dozens of miners survived at least six hours before suffocating from poisonous fumes in the burning mine pit 300 feet underground.

The crumpled slip of paper was found on the body of Mukhi Dusad, a foreman among the 55 miners who were believed killed in one of the worst mining disasters in India in nearly 20 years.

By noon Friday, rescue teams recovered 31 bodies and were searching for 24 more missing miners from the fire that broke out at the day shift ended Tuesday, said executives of the Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

The New Kenda colliery is near Asansol, about 200 kilometres north of Calcutta.

Earlier, the company erroneously reported that 41 bodies had been found.

"One of our officials heard the figure 41 and in the confusion we gave that figure.

Actually, we have sighted 31 bodies and have brought them all up," said Saral Srimani, one of the supervisors of the rescue operation, reached by telephone.

Crowds of wailing relatives, mostly villagers and tribespeople, waited for the search teams to bring up each body, covered in a white shroud.

The Telegraph newspaper of Calcutta quoted B.N. Singh, of the mining safety department, as saying the level of toxic gas in the shaft had reached 0.1 per cent, 50 times the fatal level.

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**Bulger killers could be freed in 8 years'**

LONDON (AFP) — The two 11-year-old killers of toddler James Bulger could be freed within eight years, judicial officials quoted by the British media said Wednesday. Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were sentenced to an indefinite period of custody in November for the murder of two-year-old James, who was tortured and beaten to death in February 1993 near a railway line in the northwest port of Liverpool. No extenuating circumstances were found for the killing which caused considerable anguish and heart-searching in Britain. The boys' three-week trial drew worldwide media coverage. In line with British law, trial Judge Michael Morland gave his recommendations on the length of time the killers should spend in custody to the home secretary. Reports at the time of the trial, based on precedents, said the two boys were likely to be held for at least 20 years, initially in juvenile detention centres and later in jail. According to judicial sources cited by British newspapers but not confirmed officially, Judge Morland recommended that Venables and Thompson should be detained for a "minimum of eight years." The report drew immediate criticism from James's grandmother, who warned that the killers' lives "would be at risk" if they were released early. The Bulger family's lawyer Sean Sexton said that a release after eight years would be "totally unacceptable."

**Diana ignores bodyguard plea**

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana has ignored a police plea to take back her official bodyguards despite the gun scare over Prince Charles in Australia. British newspapers reported Friday that the royal should be accompanied by a special emergency fund which provides help after the civil defence department provided a certificate," said Umm Mohammad, adding that she did not know when help would be forthcoming.

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